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USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/ANESA/OSA FOR BILL MURPHY

E.O. 12958: N/A

***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****

BODY

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, CASC, KMDR, IN,

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ALLEGATIONS OF GWOT SECRET PRISONS AND RENDITION-FLIGHTS, IRAQ, GLOBAL ECONOMY, CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE - MONTREAL, NUCLEAR PROGRAM, KASHMIR, GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, INDO-U.S. RELATIONS, PM'S VISIT TO MOSCOW AND INDO-U.S. NUKE DEAL, INDIA'S ITER MEMBERSHIP,; NEW DELHI

ALLEGATIONS OF GWOT SECRET PRISONS AND RENDITION FLIGHTS

1. "TRAIL OF TORTURE," EDITORIAL IN THE DECEMBER 8 NATIONALIST THE HINDUSTAN TIMES. "WASHINGTON'S CONTROVERSIAL POLICY OF TURNING A BLIND EYE TO THE TORTURE OF CAPTURED TERROR SUSPECTS SUGGESTS THAT ALL IS NOT WELL IN THE LAND OF LIBERTY. NEVER MIND IF US SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE DENIES THIS AS SHE TRIES TO REASSURE EUROPEAN LEADERS ON HER WHISTLE-STOP TOUR OF THE CONTINENT. MS RICE DEFENDS 'RENDITIONS' AS A NECESSARY EVIL TO KEEP THE WORLD (AND NOT JUST THE US) SAFE FROM TERRORISTS. BUT THEN THE PROBLEM IS NOT SO MUCH THE PRACTICE OF RENDITION AS WHAT HAPPENS AFTERWARDS TO PRISONERS TRANSFERRED TO THE SO-CALLED 'BLACK SITES', SECRET DETENTION CENTERS WHERE THEY ARE ALLEGEDLY TORTURED ... THE CRUEL, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT METED OUT BY THE US TO DETAINEES THERE, AS AT GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, AND THE US MAINLAND, HAS TRIGGERED INTERNATIONAL OUTRAGE ... YET, STAGGERINGLY, THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION EXPECTS THE WORLD TO SUBSCRIBE TO ITS DEFINITION OF 'TORTURE' AS ONLY THOSE INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES THAT RESULT IN 'SEVERE HARM TO A BODILY ORGAN OR DEATH'. THIS IS EVIDENCE ENOUGH OF WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND WASHINGTON'S DOUBLE STANDARDS ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. IT DECRIES HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT REFUSES TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS OWN TRANSGRESSIONS AS IT PROSECUTES THE 'WAR ON TERROR'."
2. "AMERICA, PRACTISE WHAT YOU PREACH" EDITORIAL IN DECEMBER 8, 2005, MUMBAI-BASED, CENTRIST, DNA:
 - A. "THE US ADMINISTRATION IS A HOUSE DIVIDED ON THE ISSUE OF TORTURE OF TERROR DETAINEES, FOR WHICH IT HAS COME UNDER SEVERE FLAK THE WORLD OVER. DURING HER RECENT VISIT TO GERMANY, SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE ASSURED GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL AND OTHER GERMAN OFFICIALS THAT THE US WOULD NOT TOLERATE TORTURE. WHAT SHE DIDN'T MENTION WAS THAT HER ADMINISTRATION HAD PROPOSED EXEMPTIONS FOR

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EMPLOYEES OF THE CIA FROM A LEGISLATIVE MEASURE ENDORSED BY THE SENATE THAT BARRED CRUEL AND DEGRADING TREATMENT TO ANY PRISONER IN US CUSTODY. THE PROPOSAL CAME FROM VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY. AND HE IS NOT WITHOUT SUPPORT. A RECENT AP-IPSOS POLL SHOWS THAT 61 PERCENT OF AMERICANS SURVEYED FELT THAT TORTURE TO SOME DEGREE COULD BE JUSTIFIED IN RARE CASES.

B. "GUATANAMO BAY AND ABU GHRAIB ARE EXAMPLES OF THE US PREACHING HUMAN RIGHTS WHILE BLATANTLY VIOLATING THEM. THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN METHODICAL IN HANDLING THE WHOLE CONTROVERSY. REPORTS SUGGEST THAT EVEN AS THE MEDIA WAS ON THE TRAIL OF EVIDENCE THAT THE US HAD TRANSPORTED TERROR SUSPECTS TO EAST EUROPEAN PRISONS, SOMETHING GEORGE BUSH HAS DENIED, THE CIA QUIETLY SHIFTED THEM TO NORTH AFRICAN LOCATIONS. RICE WAS PROBABLY ABLE TO DENY ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE WITH CONFIDENCE SINCE THE CIA HAS UNILATERALLY REDEFINED WHAT CONSTITUTES INHUMAN TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. IT HAS INSTITUTED WHAT IT CALLS 'ENHANCED INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES' FOR SUSPECTS, UNDER WHICH BEATINGS AND INDUCING FEELINGS OF DROWNING THROUGH A PROCESS CALLED WATER BOARDING ARE CONSIDERED PERMISSIBLE.

***** START OF SECTION 2 *****

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C. "THE US IS A SIGNATORY TO THE 1984 UN CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE, BUT TODAY THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT ANY RULE CAN BE BENT. RICE SOUGHT TO PUT HER OWN SPIN ON THE SUBJECT WHILE IN EUROPE. SHE SAID THAT "THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM WAS CHALLENGING OUR NORMS AND OUR PRACTICES"...BUT THAT INTELLIGENCE GATHERED BY THE UNITED

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STATES "VERY OFTEN SAVES EUROPEAN LIVES." THE HUMAN RIGHTS ANGLE IS ONE PART OF THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY. THE OTHER IS THAT ABUSED PRISONERS OFTEN SAY WHAT THE CAPTOR WANTS TO HEAR.

D. "AMERICAN DEMOCRACY HAS LONG SERVED AS A BEACON OF HOPE. TODAY, IT IS INDULGING IN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION SHOULD COME CLEAN ON THE TORTURE ISSUE AND CORRECT THE MISTAKES BEFORE AMERICAN CREDIBILITY AS A CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ERODES FURTHER. RICE SHOULD PLAY HER PART BACK HOME TO ENSURE HER ADMINISTRATION DELIVERS WHAT SHE PROMISED IN EUROPE."

IRAQ

3. "IT IS CERTAIN THAT SADDAM WILL BE SENTENCED TO DEATH" OP-ED ARTICLE BY RESIDENT EDITOR AJAY UMAT IN THE DECEMBER 8, 2005, MULTI-EDITION CENTRIST GUJARATI DAILY DIVYA BHASKAR. "THE 21ST CENTURY'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL AND DEBATED TRIAL IS BEING CONDUCTED IN BAGHDAD. SOME 23 MONTHS AGO, THE U.S.-LED COALITION FORCES APPREHENDED FORMER IRAQI DICTATOR SADDAM HUSSEIN FROM AN UNDERGROUND BUNKER, AND HE IS NOW BEING TRIED FOR ALL HIS ACTS OF OMISSION AND COMMISSION. NUMEROUS HUMAN RIGHTS' ORGANIZATIONS HAVE DEMANDED THAT THE SADDAM TRIAL BE CONDUCTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AT THE HAGUE. AS PER THE DIRECTIONS OF PRESIDENT BUSH, A SOLID CASE HAS BEEN PREPARED AGAINST SADDAM HUSSEIN. IRAQI AND AMERICAN EXPERTS HAVE LOCATED 300 SITES WHERE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WERE ALLEGEDLY SLAUGHTERED AND THEN BURIED AT THE BEHEST OF THE THEN-DICTATOR SADDAM HUSSEIN.... THE IRONY IS THAT TODAY THE SAME SADDAM ACCUSES AMERICA FOR METING OUT INJUSTICE TO HIM. HOWEVER, THE CASE AGAINST SADDAM IS VERY STRONG. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRESIDENT BUSH IS CONCERNED OVER HIS DECLINING POPULARITY RATINGS. HE THEREFORE WANTS THE TRIAL COURT TO PRONOUNCE ITS VERDICT SOONER THAN LATER. AMERICA HAS DONE ALL THE SPADEWORK VIS-VIS THIS CASE. IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THE COURT WILL AWARD THE DEATH PENALTY TO SADDAM HUSSEIN. ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHOSE FATE IS STRONGER: PRESIDENT BUSH'S OR SADDAM HUSSEIN'S."

GLOBAL ECONOMY

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4. "MORE REFORMS," EDITORIAL IN DECEMBER 7 CENTRIST THE TELEGRAPH: "...WHILE THE WTO SECRETARIAT CONTINUES TO BE OPTIMISTIC AND THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECLARATION TALKS OF A DEADLINE OF 2006, THERE IS NEAR CONSENSUS THAT HONG KONG WILL END IN A DEADLOCK. THERE ARE SUGGESTIONS OF A MINISTERIAL OR MINI-MINISTERIAL IN MARCH/APRIL 2006. BUT SINCE THE EUROPEAN UNION CONTINUES TO BE INFLEXIBLE, WITH THE US PRESIDENT'S FAST TRACK NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY EXPIRING

***** START OF SECTION 3 *****

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IN EARLY 2007, THE DWP IS PROBABLY KNOCKED BACK TILL 2010. WEAKER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN MULTILATERALISM, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF MULTILATERAL RULES. BUT NONE OF THESE RULES WERE DUE FOR DRASTIC REVISIONS...NOT EVEN ANTI-DUMPING. CONVERSELY, THERE IS A LOT OF PUBLIC OPINION IN INDIA, AND NOT JUST FROM THE LEFT, SUGGESTING THAT INDIA SHOULD NOT YIELD TO PRESSURES FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THIS IS PARTICULARLY PERTINENT FOR AGRICULTURE, WHERE, IN THE ABSENCE OF DOMESTIC REFORMS, INDIA'S EXPORT PROSPECTS ARE BLEAK, AND THERE ARE IMPORT THREATS TO EDIBLE OILS AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. NOTWITHSTANDING INDIA'S INTEREST IN THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM, ONE THEREFORE SUSPECTS THAT MR. KAMAL NATH, UNION MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, WILL BE HAPPY ENOUGH IF NOTHING TRANSPIRES IN HONG KONG, AS LONG AS THE CORE NEGOTIATING GROUP OF INDIA, BRAZIL, CHINA AND SOUTH AFRICA ACTS COLLECTIVELY. THE BLAME FOR THE TEMPORARY FAILURE WILL BE ATTRIBUTED TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' RELUCTANCE TO PHASE OUT DOMESTIC SUPPORT AND EXPORT SUBSIDIES IN AGRICULTURE. THAT GIVES INDIA TIME TO

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INTRODUCE DOMESTIC REFORMS AND EVEN REDUCE DUTIES IN MANUFACTURED GOODS ... INDIA IS IN A RELATIVELY HAPPY NEGOTIATING POSITION BECAUSE OF THREE FACTORS - FIRST, GREATER ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND CLOUT; SECOND, EMERGENCE OF G-20 AND ITS CORE AS A NEGOTIATING FORCE; AND THIRD, ENHANCED IN-HOUSE NEGOTIATING CAPACITY WITHIN THE COMMERCE MINISTRY, SPICED WITH WILLINGNESS TO TAP EXTERNAL EXPERTISE. ALL THESE ARE CONTINGENT ON REFORMS, WHICH MUST BE MAINTAINED, REGARDLESS OF HONG KONG."

CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, MONTREAL

5. "THE MELTDOWN BEGINS," EDITORIAL PAGE ARTICLE BY NARAYANI GANESH IN THE DECEMBER 8 CENTRIST THE TIMES OF INDIA.
A. "IF YOU THOUGHT THAT GLOBAL WARMING IS CAUSED BY GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG), YOU'RE WRONG, SAYS DUNCAN SHIELDS, A VETERAN REPORTER AT REUTERS NEWS AGENCY. GHGS DO NOT CAUSE GLOBAL WARMING, BUT THEY ARE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR, HE EXPLAINED, ON THE SIDELINES OF THE 10-DAY-LONG UN CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE HAPPENING HERE. DURING A TRAINING SESSION ON CARBON FINANCE FOR JOURNALISTS, SHIELDS WENT ON TO EXPLODE MYTHS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES THAT TEND TO GET REPORTED AS FACT, WHEN WRITERS SACRIFICE ACCURACY FOR SPEED ... FOR ALL US-BASHERS, HERE'S AN EYE-OPENER: THE US WAS THE FIRST EVER COUNTRY TO INITIATE AN EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME 20 YEARS AGO TO COMBAT THE EFFECTS OF ACID RAIN. SO IT WAS THE AMERICANS WHO INVENTED EMISSIONS TRADING TO HELP CONTAIN SULPHUR DIOXIDE EMISSIONS. THE GENERAL PERCEPTION IS THAT THE US IS DOING LITTLE TO CUT CO2 EMISSIONS. WHILE THIS IS TRUE OF THE CENTRAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE REGIONAL STATE GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN EASTERN AREAS, AND IN CALIFORNIA, ARE INITIATING GHG CONTAINMENT SCHEMES AMONG POWER STATIONS; BANS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON VOLUME OF VEHICULAR EMISSIONS AND INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS ARE TAKING THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING VERY SERIOUSLY INDEED. WRITING ON CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES CAN BE MISLEADING AND CONFUSING, IF FIGURES AND PERCENTAGES ARE QUOTED WITHOUT ALSO INCLUDING COMPARISONS ... THE US AND AUSTRALIA ARE THE
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ON TERROR, U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, INDO-U.S. RELATIONS, PM'S
VISIT TO MOSCOW AND INDO-U.S. NUKE DEAL, INDIA'S ITER
MEMBERSHIP,; NEW DELHI

ONLY TWO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHO HAVE REFUSED TO RATIFY THE
KYOTO PROTOCOL, CITING THEIR RELUCTANCE TO TAKE CUTS IN
ECONOMIC GROWTH RATES.

B. "CAPS ON EMISSIONS NEED TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY EFFECTIVE,
ECONOMICALLY VIABLE, FAIR AND VERIFIABLE. CARBON TRADING
NEEDS TO BE TRANSPARENT AND EASY. BUT THE US SAYS ALL CAPS
ARE ECONOMICALLY UNVIALE AND ALL CAPS ARE UNFAIR AS LONG AS
INDIA AND CHINA ARE NOT INCLUDED. SO THE STALEMATE
CONTINUES. THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHAT
LIES IN STORE POST-2012 ... WILL THE KYOTO PROTOCOL RETAIN
ITS RELEVANCE BEYOND 2012? WILL INDIA AND CHINA BY THAT TIME
BE DEVELOPED ENOUGH TO TAKE ON CARBON CAPS? CANADA, HOST TO
THE CONFERENCE, HAS ITS OWN PLAN FOR HONORING THE KYOTO
COMMITMENT ... THOUGH CANADA'S INTENTIONS ARE LAUDABLE, IT
HAS, INSTEAD OF CUTTING DOWN ITS EMISSIONS TO 6% OF 1990
LEVELS, ACTUALLY INCREASED EMISSIONS BY MORE THAN 20% ...
NOWHERE IS THE ARCTIC MELTDOWN THREAT MORE PALPABLE THAN IN
CANADA, WHERE REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS ARE
RUNNING FROM PILLAR TO POST TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHT TO
SURVIVAL. THAT'S WHY THEY KEEP HAMMERING THE POINT THAT
CLIMATE CHANGE IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. THE OPINION IS
SECONDED BY PACIFIC ISLANDERS - WHOSE HOMES ARE ENDANGERED
BY RISING SEA LEVELS - WHO ASK WHY THEY HAVE TO PAY FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT SINS OF COUNTRIES LIKE THE US, CANADA AND
AUSTRALIA."

NUCLEAR PROGRAM

6. "RUSSIA OPEN TO NUKE TIES, ON U.S. TERMS," MOSCOW
DISPATCH IN DECEMBER 7 CENTRIST THE TELEGRAPH BY SPECIAL

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CORRESPONDENT RADHIKA RAMASESHAN: "RUSSIA RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO INDIA'S REQUEST FOR EXPANDING COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT A FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THIS SECTOR WILL BE CONTINGENT ON INDIA MEETING THE CONDITIONS LAID DOWN BY THE US IN GENERAL AND THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP (NSG) IN PARTICULAR. RUSSIA ALSO INDICATED THAT INDIA WILL HAVE TO SEGREGATE ITS MILITARY AND CIVILIAN NUCLEAR FACILITIES. THIS CAVEAT WAS SPELT OUT CLEARLY BY RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN ... PUTIN WAS ASKED HOW...INDIA AND RUSSIA COULD EXPAND THEIR CO-OPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY SPHERE AND HOW RUSSIA COULD SUPPLY NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT AND FUEL TO INDIA WHILE BEING AN NSG MEMBER AND...WHILE THE NSG RULES WERE BEING AMENDED, WOULD RUSSIA TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO CREATE A FRAMEWORK TO HELP INDIA ACTIVELY IN THE NUCLEAR SPHERE ... THE OBJECTIONS FROM ITS FELLOW COUNTRIES HAD PROMPTED RUSSIA TO TELL INDIA IT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BUILD MORE NUCLEAR REACTORS UNTIL THE NSG RESTRICTIONS WERE LIFTED. TODAY, WHEN THE QUESTION IS OF WHETHER RUSSIA WOULD LOOK TO A PARTNERSHIP BEYOND KUDANKULAM IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY SECTOR, PUTIN SOUNDED MORE OPTIMISTIC ... THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE KEEN TO KEEP THINGS ON TRACK WAS EVIDENT IN THE OTHER STATEMENTS THAT FLOWED FROM PUTIN'S REPLY...."

7. "IN THE NUCLEAR CLUB" EDITORIAL IN DECEMBER 8 GUWAHATI ENGLISH LEFT-OF-CENTER THE SENTINEL: "THE MOST REMARKABLE ASPECT OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE NUCLEAR CLUB IS THAT ONE GATECRASHES INTO IT AND GETS ACCEPTED AS A MEMBER AS A

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RESULT OF THE FAIT ACCOMPLI ... ONE OF THE NATURAL OUTCOMES OF THIS WAS THE BELATED DISCOVERY THAT INDIA WAS A STATE WITH NUCLEAR CAPABILITY THAT COULD BE COUNTED ON TO BE MORE RESPONSIBLE THAN MANY OTHERS. THIS EVENTUALLY LED TO THE US TO ACKNOWLEDGE INDIA AS A NUCLEAR POWER. AND CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF THIS RATHER UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT, WE NOW HAVE EVEN THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AGREEING TO INCLUDE INDIA IN A 10-BILLION EURO PROJECT TO BUILD AN EXPERIMENTAL NUCLEAR FUSION REACTOR THAT COULD PROVIDE VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED, CHEAP AND CLEAN ENERGY IN THE LONG RUN. THE WILLINGNESS OF THE EU TO WORK WITH INDIA ON A CIVIL NUCLEAR PROJECT COMES MONTHS AFTER THE US SUPPORT OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT DESPITE INDIA'S REFUSAL TO SIGN A GLOBAL TREATY BARRING THE SPREAD OF ATOMIC WEAPONS. THIS IS A MEASURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S CONFIDENCE IN INDIA'S ABILITY TO USE NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES WITH RESPONSIBILITY AND RESTRAINT. AND THAT IS PERHAPS THE REASON WHY INDIA'S STATUS AS AN UNOFFICIAL NUCLEAR POWER HAS BEEN TRANSMUTED INTO AN OFFICIAL ONE IN EUROPE AS WELL, WHEN NO ONE HAS THOUGHT OF GIVING THE SAME STATUS TO PAKISTAN. WHILE ALL THIS IS MOST FLATTERING FOR THE COLLECTIVE EGO, ONE CANNOT HELP WORRYING ABOUT WHERE ALL THIS IS GOING TO LEAD A RATHER CORRUPT COUNTRY WITHOUT MUCH DISCIPLINE. ONE CANNOT OVERLOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO THE USSR AFTER IT BROKE UP AND MANY OF ITS CONSTITUENT STATES RETAINED ACCESS TO THEIR NUCLEAR FACILITIES. WE TOO HAVE A SITUATION WHERE MINING FOR URANIUM DEPOSITS IS NOW TAKING PLACE IN INDIA. HOW LONG WILL THIS EXEMPLARY SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY HOLD?"

KASHMIR

8. "INSIDE THE LASHMAR-E-TAIBAS NETWORK," ANALYSIS BY PRAVEEN SWAMI IN THE DECEMBER 8 LEFT-OF-CENTER THE HINDU.
A. "EARLY IN THE AUTUMN OF 2003, SHABBIR BUKHARI DELIVERED AN IMPASSIONED SPEECH DEFENDING JAMMU AND KASHMIR'S ACCESSION TO INDIA AND CONDEMNING TERRORIST VIOLENCE. AMONG THOSE IN THE AUDIENCE AT SRINAGAR'S GANDHI BHAWAN WHO APPLAUDED THE YOUNG KASHMIR UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENT'S SPEECH WERE THE STATE'S DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE, GOPAL SHARMA, AND A HOST OF SENIOR BUREAUCRATS AND POLITICIANS. AT THE LASHKAR-E-TAIBA'S COMMAND HEADQUARTERS IN MUZAFFARABAD, HOWEVER, TOP OPERATIVES KNEW ANOTHER BUKHARI.

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KNOWN TO HIS HANDLERS BY THE CODE-NAME 'ABU SUMAMA,' BUKHARI HAD WORKED AS A LASHKAR COURIER, PROPAGANDIST, AND RECRUITER SINCE 2002. IN 2004, HE WOULD RISE TO COMMAND A UNIT THAT WOULD CARRY OUT A SERIES OF FIDAYEEN SUICIDE-SQUAD ATTACKS IN WHICH DOZENS OF SECURITY FORCE PERSONNEL AND CIVILIANS WOULD DIE. OVER THE LAST WEEK, AN INTELLIGENCE-LED OPERATION BY THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE HAS DELIVERED THE MOST VIVID PICTURE SO FAR AVAILABLE OF THE LASHKAR'S OPERATIONS IN THE STATE. INVESTIGATORS HAVE FOUND THAT EVEN AS TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR WENT INTO DECLINE AFTER THE INDIA-PAKISTAN NEAR-WAR OF 2001-2002, THE LASHKAR FOCUSED ITS ENERGIES ON BUILDING UP SUCCESSIVE RINGS OF HIGHLY-ORGANIZED COVERT SKILLS, DRAWING ON INDIVIDUALS WITH HIGH LEVELS OF EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL SKILLS. IN THE WAKE OF THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE THAT DESTROYED MUCH OF PAKISTAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR IN OCTOBER, THE FORMIDABLE CAPABILITIES

***** START OF SECTION 6 *****

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OF THE LASHKAR'S COVERT CELLS HAVE BEEN UNLEASHED. ITS LEGITIMACY REVIVED BY ITS WELL-FUNDED AND HIGHLY-ORGANIZED EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS, THE LASHKAR NOW SEEMS PREPARED TO RENEW ITS OPERATIONS AGAINST INDIA IN AND OUTSIDE JAMMU AND KASHMIR. "EVERYONE THINKS THE JIHAD IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE," BUKHARI SAYS QUIETLY, 'BUT THEY ARE WRONG. JUST PLAIN WRONG.' TO THOSE WHO KNEW HIM WELL, BUKHARI'S 2003 SPEECH WAS NO SURPRISE. HIS FATHER, SYED GHULAM MOHIUDDIN BUKHARI, WAS A WELL KNOWN SUFI MYSTIC, A LIVING REPOSITORY OF A RELIGIOUS TRADITION HOSTILE TO ISLAMISTS AND THEIR PRO-PAKISTAN POLITICAL PROJECT.

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B. "IN 2002, HOWEVER, BUKHARI BEGAN TO EVOLVE A LIFE-TRANSFORMING RELATIONSHIP WITH A NORTH KASHMIR-BASED LASHKAR OPERATIVE. ABDUL WAHAB, A RESIDENT OF MULTAN IN PAKISTAN EDUCATED AT THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN ISLAMABAD, HAD ABANDONED HIS CAREER AS A CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT TO SERVE AS A LASHKAR OPERATIVE IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR ... OVER MONTHS, BUKHARI AND WAHAB BUILT AN INTELLECTUAL RELATIONSHIP ... TO WAHAB, KASHMIR'S SUFI TRADITIONS WERE A FAILURE ... JIHAD - NOT THE KIND OF TRADITIONALIST PIETY REPRESENTED BY BUKHARI'S FATHER - WAS THE ANSWER ... BUKHARI'S MOST ABIDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE NORTH KASHMIR LASHKAR, HOWEVER, WAS TO PROVIDE IT A STEADY FLOW OF USEFUL LOCAL INTELLIGENCE ... WAHAB'S DEATH IN A 2003 ENCOUNTER FINALLY MOTIVATED BUKHARI TO JOIN THE LASHKAR FULL-TIME ... BUKHARI'S DECISION TO JOIN THE LASHKAR FULL-TIME COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A BETTER TIME FOR THE ORGANISATION. IN 2003, 22 LASHKAR OPERATIVES HAD BEEN ARRESTED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF AN INTELLIGENCE BUREAU OPERATION THAT DECIMATED THE LASHKARS OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE ... UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE UNITED STATES, PAKISTAN HAD ALSO BEGUN TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE LASHKAR TO SCALE BACK ITS OPERATIONS. DRAWING ON THE LESSONS OF THE 2003 DEBACLE, THE LASHKAR SET ABOUT BUILDING MULTIPLE CELLS UNDER STRONG PROTECTIVE COVER ... FUNDS AND OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR BUKHARI'S CELL WERE PROVIDED BY THE LASHKAR COMMANDER WHO HAD REPLACED ABDUL REHMAN, A PAKISTANI NATIONAL STILL KNOWN ONLY BY THE MULTIPLE ALIASES 'BILAL', 'HAIDER,' AND 'SALAHUDDIN' ... MIRRORING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BUKHARI CELL, OTHER LASHKAR CELLS RUN BY ETHNIC KASHMIRIS WERE ALSO SET UP IN SRINAGAR, EACH UNDER THE COMMAND OF A SENIOR PAKISTANI OPERATIVE.

C. "TO ANALYSTS OF TERRORISM IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR, THE UNRAVELLING OF BUKHARI'S CELL AND THE INTELLIGENCE THAT HAS EMERGED FROM IT HOLD SEVERAL INSTRUCTIVE LESSONS. FIRST, THE LASHKAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO RECRUIT ETHNIC KASHMIRI CADRE - INDIVIDUALS, MOREOVER, WITH SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SKILLS. EVEN IF INDIAN POLICY-MAKERS DO ARRIVE AT AN ACCOMMODATION OF THE MAINLY ETHNIC-KASHMIRI HIZB-UL-MUJAHIDEEN, THIS SUGGESTS GROUPS LIKE THE LASHKAR CAN POSE AN INDEPENDENT THREAT. SECONDLY, THE LASHKAR HAS DEMONSTRATED BOTH THAT ITS INFRASTRUCTURE IS STILL INTACT AND THAT ITS JIHADIST AGENDA REMAINS IN PLACE.

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THE LASHKAR'S RENEWAL OF PAN-INDIA OPERATIONS AFTER THE OCTOBER EARTHQUAKE, ILLUSTRATED DRAMATICALLY THROUGH THE DEEPAVALI SERIAL BOMBINGS IN NEW DELHI, MAKE CLEAR JUST HOW INEFFECTIVE PAKISTANI PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF'S PROMISES TO ACT AGAINST TERROR GROUPS HAVE BEEN. INDEED, GENERAL MUSHARRAF'S FAILURE SUGGESTS THE LASHKAR HAS POWERFUL ALLIES

***** START OF SECTION 7 *****

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, CASC, KMDR, IN,

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WITHIN PAKISTAN'S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT - ALLIES WHOM THE PAKISTANI PRESIDENT IS EITHER UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO CONFRONT ... THE CHALLENGES TO THE PEACE PROCESS ARE SIGNIFICANT. A SERIES OF MAJOR TERRORIST OPERATIONS WILL MAKE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR THE MANMOHAN SINGH GOVERNMENT TO PUSH AHEAD WITH THE DTENTE PROCESS. SOMETHING ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE LASHKAR WILL BE DELIGHTED BY ... INDIAN POLICY MAKERS WILL HAVE TO GRAPPLE WITH THE DIFFICULT TASK OF DEFENDING THE DTENTE PROCESS AS THE ISLAMIST SIEGE OF THE PAKISTANI STATE STRENGTHENS."

GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

9. "ISLAMIC TERRORISM: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH" EDIT-PAGE ARTICLE BY VETERAN JOURNALIST M.V. KAMATH IN DECEMBER 8, 2005,

MUMBAI-BASED, LEFT-OF-CENTER, THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL:

"...INDIA MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IT HAS NO ANIMUS AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN AND OF BANGLADESH BUT IT CANNOT SIT BACK AND WATCH ITS SOVEREIGNTY BEING QUIETLY AND CLEVERLY ERODED. IF THIS IS NOT DONE WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, WE MAY

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HAVE TO FACE A HINDU BACKLASH WITH DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES. THE WHOLE COUNTRY WOULD THEN BE IN FIRE. IS THAT WHAT THE UPA GOVERNMENT WANTS? WHAT THE COUNTRY HAS WITNESSED IN DELHI IS A FOREWARNING OF WHAT ONE CAN EXPECT IN DAYS TO COME. THE NORTHEAST OF INDIA IS A POWDER KEG AND THE EXPLOSION MAY COME ANY DAY. LET IT NOT BE SAID THAT THE UPA GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN WARNED. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SAY THAT THE ISI OR THE JAMIAT ARE THE GUILTY PARTIES. IN ALL INSTANCES OF TERRORISM THERE IS ENOUGH CLINCHING EVIDENCE OF ISLAMABAD'S COMPLICITY. INDIA HAS BEEN PATIENT FOR FAR TOO LONG. THE TIME HAS NOW COME FOR ACTION, BOTH BOLD AND UNCOMPROMISING. INDIA MUST SHOW ITS STRENGTH IN MEANINGFUL WAYS. TO START WITH IT SHOULD CLEAR THE NORTHEAST OF ALL BANGLADESHIS. AND TELL THE WORLD THAT INDIA MEANS BUSINESS. IT HAS NO OTHER OPTION."

10. "FATWA AGAINST FREEDOM," OP-ED IN DECEMBER 8 CENTRIST THE TELEGRAPH BY SENIOR EDITOR AND FORMER IV ASHIS CHAKRABARTI: "...EVEN BEFORE THE RISE OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM IN THAT COUNTRY, SECTIONS OF BANGLADESHIS FACED A CONFLICT OF IDENTITIES. ARE THEY BENGALIS FIRST OR MUSLIMS FIRST? THAT WAS THE SUM OF THIS CONFLICT. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THEM STILL BELIEVED THEMSELVES TO BE BENGALIS FIRST. HOW ELSE WOULD ONE EXPLAIN THE 1971 WAR, THEY ARGUED. OF COURSE, THEY WERE MUSLIMS, BUT IF THAT WAS ALL, THEY HAD NO REASON TO RISE IN REVOLT AGAINST MUSLIM PAKISTAN. ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS SAW THINGS DIFFERENTLY. THEY WANTED BANGLADESHIS TO BE MUSLIMS FIRST AND MUSLIMS LAST. BUT THE POLITICAL AND CULTURAL LEGACY OF 1971 WAS THE BIGGEST HURDLE FOR REMAKING BANGLADESH IN THEIR IMAGE. HENCE THEIR ATTACKS ON ALL INSTITUTIONS, INDIVIDUALS AND IDEAS THAT KEPT THE LEGACY ALIVE ... AS THE TALIBAN, AND AFGHANISTAN, INCREASINGLY BECAME THE CENTER OF ISLAMIST WORLD, BANGLADESHI JIHADISTS QUIETLY WORKED THEIR WAY INTO DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY. THEY WERE STILL SMALL IN NUMBER AND THEIR INFLUENCE LIMITED, BUT THEY FORMED A NUCLEUS THAT WOULD LATER SPREAD MUCH WIDER ... OVER THESE YEARS, THE ISLAMISTS LEARNT TO ASK FOR MORE. IT WAS NO

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LONGER ENOUGH FOR BANGLADESHIS TO BE MUSLIMS FIRST AND MUSLIMS LAST. THE FUNDAMENTALISTS NOW WANTED BANGLADESHIS TO BE GOOD MUSLIMS, WHICH, IN THEIR INTERPRETATION, MEANT THAT THEY HAD TO MOVE AWAY FROM WESTERN-STYLE DEMOCRACY, ACCEPT SHARIA LAW INSTEAD OF THE PRESENT LEGAL SYSTEM, TRAIN IN MADRASSAH EDUCATION, FOLLOW STRICT SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS CODES AND PUNISH THE ENEMIES OF ISLAM ... IS THERE NO HOPE THEN FOR FREEDOM IN BANGLADESH? NONE, IT SEEMS CLEAR, FROM THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS SUNK ITSELF DEEP IN THE FUNDAMENTALIST QUAGMIRE. BUT IT IS STILL DIFFICULT TO SEE BANGLADESH GOING THE TALIBAN WAY. THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SHOWN SUCH COURAGE AND SACRIFICED MORE THAN A MILLION LIVES TO WIN THEIR FREEDOM WILL NOT BE EASILY ENSLAVED AGAIN - NOT EVEN IN THE NAME OF THEIR OWN RELIGION...."

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

11. "GLOBAL TRENDS," EDITORIAL PAGE ARTICLE IN DECEMBER 7 CENTRIST THE TELEGRAPH BY RAJINDER PURI, VETERAN JOURNALIST AND CARTOONIST: "...FOREIGN SECRETARY SHYAM SARAN FOR THE FIRST TIME ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AFTER THE EMERGENCE OF CHINA AS A GLOBAL ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE, CLOSER INDO-U.S. TIES WOULD HELP MAINTAIN A BALANCE OF POWER IN ASIA ... THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS RIGHT. TO THINK THAT AMERICA WOULD JEOPARDIZE ITS RELATIONS WITH CHINA FOR THE SAKE OF INDIA WOULD BE PRESUMPTUOUS. TO CONCLUDE THAT AMERICA WOULD PROTECT INDIA'S CORE INTERESTS SIMPLY BY HAVING CLOSER ENGAGEMENT WOULD BE RECKLESS. THE PM RIGHTLY IMPLIED THAT GLOBALIZATION IS INEVITABLE. SECURITY COLLABORATION WITH AMERICA IS MOST DESIRABLE. BUT THE AMERICAN VISION OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER (NOW) IS QUESTIONABLE. THERE ARE MORE IMAGINATIVE WAYS OF ADVANCING GLOBALIZATION ... IN HEGEL'S

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VISION A FEDERAL WORLD ORDER WAS IMPLICIT. AFTER THOSE ANCIENT VISIONS EMERGED AMERICA'S CONCEPT OF NOW ESPOUSED BY THE FIRST PRESIDENT BUSH FOLLOWING DESERT STORM. HIS SON, THE PRESENT PRESIDENT, IS ATTEMPTING CRUELY TO TRANSLATE THAT VISION INTO REALITY. AS A RESULT HE HAS MADE NOW A HATED TERM. HE HAS MADE GLOBALIZATION UNPOPULAR INSIDE AMERICA ITSELF. AN INCREASING NUMBER OF AMERICANS YEARN FOR A RETURN TO ISOLATIONIST AMERICA. THAT IS A PITY. AMERICA HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EVOLVE AND BECOME THE HUB OF A GENUINE DEMOCRATIC WORLD ORDER. FOR THAT ITS LEADERS WOULD HAVE HAD TO RISE ABOVE NARROW NATIONALISM AND ACT LIKE WORLD CITIZENS. INSTEAD THEY ADOPTED A MYOPIC VISION AND UNLEASHED UNPRINCIPLED POLICIES ... INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES COULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED THROUGH INTERACTION OF GLOBAL LOBBIES INSIDE THE U.S.A. INSTEAD AMERICA HAS EMERGED AS A CHAUVINIST NATION BULLYING THE WORLD. ITS GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED TO PROTECT ITS OWN PEOPLE FROM EXPLOITATION BY TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. THESE CORPORATIONS HAVE CREATED A CENTRALIZED GLOBAL SYSTEM THROUGH MARKETING IN WHICH PROFIT TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER LOYALTY TO NATION AS WELL AS OVER CONCERN FOR HUMANITY...."

INDO-U.S. RELATIONS

12. "LEFTISTS' FAKE REVOLUTION," ANALYSIS IN DECEMBER 6

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INFLUENTIAL CALCUTTA BENGALI FORTNIGHTLY DESH BY COLUMNIST ARKADEB SINHA: "LEFTISTS OF OUR COUNTRY (INDIA)...UNDERSTAND

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ONLY ONE THING...A ZEAL FOR FAKE REVOLUTION AND IF THIS REVOLUTION IS DIRECTED AGAINST AMERICAN 'IMPERIALIST DESIGNS' THEY WILL NOT HAVE TO THINK AGAIN... THE FARCE THAT THE LEFTISTS CREATED OVER THE JOINT EXERCISES IN KALAIKUNDA WAS A GLARING EXAMPLE OF THIS FAKE REVOLUTION ... THE WAY THE PARTY SUPPORTERS VIOLATED ALL THE PARTY DICTUMS AND SCRAMBLED FOR A VIEW OF THE SORTIES MADE IT CLEAR THAT SPECTACULAR TECHNOLOGY AND AMAZING TACTICS SURPASSED IDEOLOGICAL MORALIZING IN ATTRACTING THE MASSES. AT LAST THE REALITY...OF MODERN GLOBALIZATION...HAS SUCCEEDED IN ENSNARING THE WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE. BUT THAT DOES NOT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ... LEFTIST PARTIES ARE ANGRY AT INDIA'S VOTES IN FAVOR OF AMERICA, INSTEAD OF STANDING BY IRAN ... HOW INDIA FEELS ABOUT...IRAN'S BECOMING A NUCLEAR POWER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PRAGMATICALLY ... SUCH A STAND BY THE LEFTISTS PLACES HURDLES ON INDIA'S GENUINE ATTEMPT TO AMEND PAST MISTAKES IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY. INDIA HAD VIRTUALLY PLAYED IN THE HANDS OF RUSSIA FOR A LONG TIME IN THE NAME OF NON-ALIGNMENT ... THE LEFTISTS FAIL TO OVERCOME THEIR HANGOVER OF THIS NON-ALIGNMENT. PRAGMATIC FOREIGN POLICY SPEAKS OF REASON. WHY WOULD THE LEFTISTS LISTEN TO REASONS? THEY DO NOT TAKE ON ANY RESPONSIBILITY; RATHER THEY RETAIN THE POWER TO BLACKMAIL. SO, THE COMMON REFRAIN, 'DOWN WITH U.S. IMPERIALISM' REMAINS."

PM'S VISIT TO MOSCOW AND INDO-U.S. NUKE DEAL

13. "CHAIN REACTION," EDITORIAL IN THE DECEMBER 8 NATIONALIST THE HINDUSTAN TIMES. "THE OUTCOME OF PRIME MINISTER MANMOHAN SINGH'S VISIT TO RUSSIA IS THE BEST PROOF THAT THE INDIA-US NUCLEAR AGREEMENT OF JULY 18 IS THE KEY THAT WILL UNLOCK THE MANY BOLTS CLAMPED ON INDIA'S CIVIL AND MILITARY NUCLEAR PROGRAMME. YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO READ BETWEEN THE LINES TO SEE THAT THE RUSSIAN POSITION ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION, OR FOR THAT MATTER THAT OF THE FRENCH OR THE BRITISH, IS IDENTICAL TO THAT OF THE US. RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN MADE THIS CLEAR ON TUESDAY WHEN HE PREMISED NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH INDIA ON ITS DIALOGUE WITH THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP AND ON "SEPARATING ITS MILITARY AND PEACEFUL NUCLEAR PROGRAMME" ... NOW THERE IS COMPLETE AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEW DELHI, MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON, AND PARIS AND LONDON, ON THE NEXT STEPS. THE BARGAIN CLEARLY,

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FAVORS INDIA, NO MATTER WHAT NITPICKING DOMESTIC CRITICS SAY. PARALLEL TO THIS IS THE DECISION IN JEJU, SOUTH KOREA, TO INCLUDE INDIA AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL THERMONUCLEAR EXPERIMENTAL REACTOR (ITER) PROJECT. THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT IN ANY MIND THAT THE DECISION BY THE SEVEN-MEMBER GROUP -- US, EU, RUSSIA, SOUTH KOREA, CHINA AND JAPAN -- IS THE RESULT OF A LITTLE NUDGE FROM WASHINGTON. THE JULY 18 AGREEMENT CLEARLY STATED THAT THE US WOULD DO ALL IT CAN TO PUSH FOR INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP. THE ITER, A TRULY INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISE, IS AIMED AT BUILDING A REACTOR THAT CAN USE NUCLEAR FUSION AS A SOURCE OF ENERGY ... THOSE WHO LAUNCHED AN ARTILLERY BARRAGE ON THE GOVERNMENT FOR SIGNING THE AGREEMENT WITH THE US IN JULY NEED TO DO A LITTLE BIT OF INTROSPECTION, AND, PERHAPS SOME EXPIATION."

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STATE FOR NP, AC, PM

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14. "MOSCOW IS WILLING," EDITORIAL IN THE DECEMBER 8 CENTRIST THE TRIBUNE." PRIME MINISTER MANMOHAN SINGH'S TALKS WITH RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN ON TUESDAY HAVE BROUGHT TO LIGHT MOSCOW'S EAGERNESS TO HELP INDIA IN ACQUIRING THE LATEST NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION TECHNOLOGY TO MEET THE COUNTRY'S GROWING POWER REQUIREMENTS, WHICH MAY INCREASE CONSIDERABLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. RUSSIA IS ALREADY INVOLVED IN HELPING INDIA IN SETTING UP TWO NUCLEAR REACTORS AT KODANKULAM IN TAMIL NADU. BUT INDIA NEEDS MORE REACTORS, AND RUSSIA SEEMS TO BE WILLING TO OBLIGE IT NOW THAT THERE WILL BE NO US OBJECTION AFTER THE JULY NUCLEAR DEAL, SIGNED IN WASHINGTON DURING DR MANMOHAN SINGHS US VISIT. RUSSIA, BESIDES FRANCE, IS READY TO SUPPLY THE LATEST NUCLEAR

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REACTORS FOR CIVILIAN PURPOSES. THOSE WHO OPPOSED THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED BETWEEN INDIA AND THE US IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY AREA SHOULD REALIZE HOW THE ATTITUDE OF THE WORLD CHANGES ONCE YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE FENCE. RUSSIA WILL NOT DO ANYTHING THAT GOES AGAINST THE WISHES OF NOT ONLY THE US BUT ALSO THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP (NSG), AS IT HAS INDICATED. BUT IT KNOWS THAT THE NSG MAY EASE THE CURBS IMPOSED ON INDIA IN VIEW OF THE PREVAILING REALITIES. AFTER ALL, THE US HAS PROMISED TO HELP INDIA IN GETTING REMOVED ALL THE IMPEDIMENTS IN THE WAY OF THE TRANSFER OF ADVANCED NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY TO INDIA. RUSSIA HAS GIVEN ENOUGH HINTS THAT IT TOO WILL JOIN THE US IN PREVAILING UPON THE NSG TO EASE THE RESTRICTIONS AGAINST INDIA ... THE AGREEMENTS DR MANMOHAN SINGH AND MR. PUTIN SIGNED ON TUESDAY HAVE OPENED THE DOORS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE MULTI-ROLE TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AND THE FIFTH GENERATION FIGHTER PLANES WHICH INDIA NEEDED URGENTLY ... THE NEW THRUST ON JOINT PRODUCTION HAS ITS OWN SIGNIFICANCE."

15. "MOSCOW'S CIVIL ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY," ANALYSIS BY STRATEGIC AFFAIRS PUNDIT K. SUBRAHMANYAM IN THE DECEMBER 8 CENTRIST THE INDIAN EXPRESS.

A. "DURING PRIME MINISTER MANMOHAN SINGH'S VISIT TO MOSCOW, PRESIDENT PUTIN MADE IT CLEAR THAT RUSSIA EXPECTS TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN FUTURE CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY PROJECTS IN INDIA. BUT HE SAW THIS AS PART OF A BROADER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON ENABLING INDIA TO HAVE ACCESS TO CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY ... THE MESSAGE FROM THIS IS QUITE CLEAR. RUSSIA EXPECTS INDIA TO WORK TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JULY 18, 2005, AGREEMENT WITH WASHINGTON. PRESUMABLY THE ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD IN INDIA THAT SEPARATION OF CIVIL-MILITARY NUCLEAR FACILITIES WAS NEAR IMPOSSIBLE, OR IT WOULD COST ASTRONOMICAL SUMS, COULD NOT SELL IN RUSSIA. THE EXPECTATIONS IN SOME QUARTERS THAT NOW THAT WASHINGTON HAS COME FORWARD TO EXCEPTIONALISE INDIA, MOSCOW COULD BE NUDGED TO GO FURTHER AND CARRY OUT THAT EXCEPTIONALISATION IN ADVANCE OF OTHERS, PROVED OVER-OPTIMISTIC. MOSCOW WANTS A LARGE SLICE OF THE CIVIL NUCLEAR MARKET IN INDIA, BUT ONLY AS PART OF AN AGREED INTERNATIONAL EXCEPTIONALISATION ARRANGEMENT AND NOT INDEPENDENT OF THAT. THAT SHOULD MAKE OUR DECISION MAKERS WORK HARDER ON THE SEPARATION PLAN AND START CLARIFYING IN THEIR OWN MINDS THE SIZE OF THE INDIAN

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ARSENAL; HOW SOON THEY WANT TO BUILD IT UP; AND WHAT NUMBER OF REACTORS THEY WANT FOR THAT PURPOSE. IN ADDITION, THEY WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT OTHER FACILITIES THEY WOULD LIKE TO KEEP OUT OF THE SAFEGUARDS. THIS DECISION HAS NOT BEEN

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STATE FOR NP, AC, PM

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REACHED THOUGH MORE THAN FOUR MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT.

B. "SECONDLY, WHATEVER OUR REQUIREMENTS, THEY HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE US ADMINISTRATION WHICH HAS TO GET THEM THROUGH THE CONGRESS, IN SPITE OF ALL OPPOSITION FROM THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION FUNDAMENTALISTS. SINCE THE US ADMINISTRATION TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO COME UP WITH THIS OFFER, AND ARE ENGAGED IN PERSUADING THE REST OF THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP TO GO ALONG WITH THEIR PROPOSAL FOR INDIA'S EXCEPTIONALISATION FROM THE NPT REGIME, WE HAVE TO START WITH THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION HAS A STAKE IN GETTING THIS ARRANGEMENT THROUGH, AND IN THEIR DECLARED COMMITMENT TO HELP INDIA IN ITS MOVES TO BECOME A WORLD CLASS POWER. INDIA CAN, THEREFORE, LEVERAGE THE US STAKE IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US ADMINISTRATION. THE HISTORY OF CONCLUSION OF JULY 18, 2005, AGREEMENT AS WELL AS PRECEDING EVENTS ESTABLISH THAT THIS INDIAN INITIATIVE IS A 'TOP DOWN' ONE, INVOLVING PRESIDENT BUSH, SECRETARY RICE, HER DEPUTY ZOELLEK, COUNCILOR ZELIKOW AND UNDER SECRETARY BURNS. THEREFORE THE HAWKISH PRONOUNCEMENTS OF VARIOUS OTHERS CAN BE IGNORED ... THERE SHOULD BE CLARITY ON OUR SIDE THAT THIS IS NOT MERELY A TECHNICAL ISSUE SOLELY DECIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY BUT A STRATEGIC ONE IN WHICH

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POLITICO-STRATEGIC JUDGMENTS ARE INVOLVED AT THE HIGHEST LEADERSHIP LEVEL. NO DOUBT SOME RISK TAKING IS INVOLVED. THAT RISK HAS TO BE CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF BROAD WORLD VIEWS. THE GREATEST RISK WE SUFFER FROM, IS THE COLD WAR MENTALITY, OBSOLETE VIEWS ABOUT NUCLEAR WAR AND STRATEGY AND THE ROLE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY. PRESIDENT PUTIN HAS RENDERED A SERVICE IN INDICATING THAT INDIA HAS TO GET ITS NUCLEAR EXCEPTIONALISATION INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE IF AT ALL IT IS TO HAVE A CIVIL NUCLEAR FUTURE ... THE COSTS OF DELAY AND INACTION COULD BE RUINOUS. THE OPPORTUNITY INDIA HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH IS ANALOGOUS TO THE ONE HENRY KISSINGER PRESENTED TO CHINA IN 1971. MAO AND ZHOU DID NOT LET IT GO. ARE WE GOING TO BE LESS FAR SIGHTED?"

16. "THE CHANGING PERSPECTIVES OF THE MOSCOW VISIT" EDITORIAL IN THE DECEMBER 8, 2005, MUMBAI EDITION OF CENTRIST MARATHI DAILY SAKAL. "INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MANMOHAN SINGH'S MOSCOW VISIT HAS TO BE VIEWED IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CONTEXT, MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE CONTEXTS THAT WERE GERMANE TO THE PAST MOSCOW VISITS OF SINGH'S PREDECESSORS. INTERNATIONAL POLITICS HAVE TAKEN A TANGLED TURN, AND INDIA FINDS ITSELF CLOSER TO THE U.S. AND CHINA THAN TO RUSSIA. IN FACT BOTH INDIA AND RUSSIA ARE NOW WOOING THE U.S. AND CHINA IN TERMS OF TRADE PARTNERSHIPS.... HOWEVER, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT FOCUSED ITS ENERGIES ON THE MOSCOW VISIT BECAUSE RUSSIA CAN HELP INDIA IN REALIZING THE LATTER'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH THE VISIT DID NOT RESULT IN ANY BREAKING NEWS ABOUT THE CIVILIAN NUCLEAR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO ALLIES, RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN GAVE A DIRECT MESSAGE THAT SHOWED RUSSIA'S INTEREST IN HELPING INDIA 'HAVE REACTORS' ON THE LINES OF KODANKULAM. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT PUTIN USED WORDS VERY CAUTIOUSLY WHILE WELCOMING CO-OPERATION WITH INDIA IN THE CIVILIAN NUCLEAR SPHERE. HE UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR INDIA TO 'TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS FOR BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE MEMBERS OF THE

***** START OF SECTION 12 *****

STATE FOR NP, AC, PM

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USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/ANESA/OSA FOR BILL MURPHY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, CASC, KMDR, IN,

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ALLEGATIONS OF GWOT SECRET PRISONS
AND RENDITION FLIGHTS, IRAQ, GLOBAL ECONOMY, CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE - MONTREAL, NUCLEAR PROGRAM, KASHMIR, GLOBAL WAR
ON TERROR, U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, INDO-U.S. RELATIONS, PM'S
VISIT TO MOSCOW AND INDO-U.S. NUKE DEAL, INDIA'S ITER
MEMBERSHIP,; NEW DELHI

NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP.' THAT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT NOT JUST
THE U.S. BUT ALSO RUSSIA WANTS INDIA TO SEPARATE ITS
MILITARY AND CIVILIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM COMPONENTS. THE LEFT
PARTIES IN INDIA SHOULD THEREFORE STOP THROWING TANTRUMS
OVER THE EXPECTATIONS VOICED BY THE U.S...."

INDIA'S ITER MEMBERSHIP

17. "FUSION PARTNER, EDITORIAL IN THE DECEMBER 8 CENTRIST
THE TRIBUNE. "INDIA HAS JOINED THE WORLDWIDE EFFORT TO
HARNESS THERMONUCLEAR FUSION AND CREATE A POTENTIALLY
ENDLESS, AND ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY, SOURCE OF ENERGY. THE
CONSORTIUM BUILDING THE INTERNATIONAL THERMONUCLEAR
EXPERIMENTAL REACTOR (ITER) HAS ADMITTED INDIA AS A FULL
PARTNER ... THE BID RECEIVED A BOOST WHEN THE JULY 18 INDO-
US AGREEMENT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED ITER, AND PROMISED
CONSULTATIONS AIMED AT ADMITTING INDIA. THE MEMBERSHIP IS
ALSO POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT - THE CONSORTIUM IS A WHO'S WHO
OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM'S POWER ELITE ... INDIA IS NOT
WITHOUT EXPERIENCE IN PLASMA PHYSICS ... IT IS THE ENORMOUS
COST OF THE RESEARCH THAT HAS BROUGHT EVEN THE RICH
COUNTRIES TOGETHER, AND INDIA ITSELF IS EXPECTED TO
CONTRIBUTE AROUND 10 PER CENT OF THE COST. BIDS FOR
CONSTRUCTING THE ITER TOKAMAK REACTOR, WHICH WILL OPERATE AT
100 MILLION DEGREES CENTIGRADE, WILL OPEN NEXT YEAR. OUR
ATOMIC SCIENTISTS SHOULD GEAR UP TO NOT ONLY TAKE FULL
ADVANTAGE OF A CUTTING-EDGE ENVIRONMENT, BUT ALSO SHOW THE
WORLD WHAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF."

MULFORD

ADMIN

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